

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

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IN RE: NATIONAL : HON. DAN A.
PRESCRIPTION OPIATE : POLSTER
LITIGATION :
:
APPLIES TO ALL CASES : NO.
: 1:17-MD-2804
:

- HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL -

SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONFIDENTIALITY REVIEW

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April 29, 2019

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Videotaped deposition of KATHERINE KEYES, Ph.D., taken pursuant to notice, was held at the law offices of Lief Cabraser, LLP, 250 Hudson Street, New York, New York beginning at 9:08 a.m., on the above date, before Michelle L. Gray, a Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Shorthand Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public.

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GOLKOW LITIGATION SERVICES
877.370.3377 ph | 917.591.5672 fax
deps@golkow.com

1 evidence that is described in that
2 section, I think my scientific opinion is
3 that there is a causal relationship
4 between prescription opioid use and
5 heroin use.

6 And it's not based on any
7 one particular study. It's based on
8 the -- the weight of the evidence.

9 Q. But you would agree that
10 none of the articles that you cite
11 conclude that there is a causal
12 relationship between prescription opioid
13 use and heroin use?

14 MS. RELKIN: Objection to
15 form.

16 THE WITNESS: So what I
17 would agree with is that someone
18 trained in epidemiology who is
19 evaluating the evidence, would
20 conclude that there is a causal
21 relationship between prescription
22 opioid use and heroin use. Any
23 one particular study doesn't make
24 that case, it's the body of

1 evidence.

2 BY MR. HERMAN:

3 Q. And none of the studies that
4 you cite conclude that there is a causal
5 relationship between prescription opioid
6 use and heroin use, correct?

7 MS. RELKIN: Objection to
8 form.

9 THE WITNESS: Again, I -- I
10 think any one particular study is
11 not sufficient to make that kind
12 of claim. What can make a claim
13 is the body of evidence that is
14 evaluated.

15 And so I evaluated the body
16 of evidence and made -- came to
17 the conclusion that there is a
18 causal relationship.

19 BY MR. HERMAN:

20 Q. You agree that only a small
21 portion -- a small portion of people who
22 use prescription opioids later use
23 heroin?

24 MS. RELKIN: Objection to

1 and agreed at the top of the
2 paragraph.

3 THE WITNESS: You know,
4 again, I think the evidence base
5 overall for this particular topic
6 is quite consistent in showing a
7 positive association, which is
8 what Compton states in that
9 paragraph. And that we use those
10 kinds of data in observational
11 epidemiology when we're drawing
12 conclusions.

13 BY MR. HERMAN:

14 Q. If you were writing for a
15 professional journal would you draw a
16 conclusion about causality from the
17 observational descriptive studies that
18 Dr. Compton looked at?

19 MS. RELKIN: Objection to
20 form.

21 THE WITNESS: So I do write
22 for professional journals. And I
23 have evaluated the literature in
24 this report. And I would draw the

1 conclusion in any forum, that the
2 available literature is consistent
3 with a causal association.

4 I mean, even Wilson Compton
5 in this sentence said that, "It's
6 highly suggestive and plausible
7 given their common pharmacologic
8 principles."

9 I think I would go a step
10 further given that we now have
11 three more years of data since
12 this was published.

13 BY MR. HERMAN:

14 Q. So you disagree with his
15 conclusion that -- his statement that
16 conclusions about cause and effect are
17 uncertain?

18 A. I would agree with his
19 conclusion that there is a positive
20 association, that it's highly suggestive
21 and plausible. And that given the
22 additional three years of publications
23 that I reviewed here, that there's
24 consistent evidence for a causal